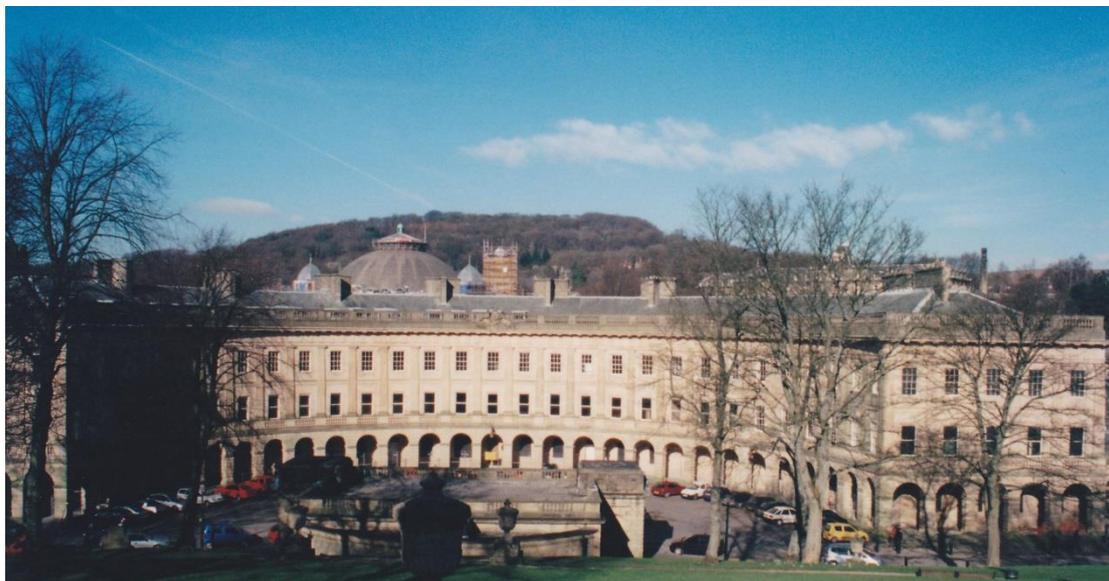


This file contains details of Buxton's Grade 1 & Grade II\* buildings.

## Grade I The Crescent



**The Crescent is Buxton's only Grade I Listed Building.**

It was built between 1780 and 1789 by John Carr of York for the 5<sup>th</sup> Duke of Devonshire. The Duke's plan was to develop quality accommodation in the form of a crescent to rival that at Bath. Whilst the original site chosen proved to be unobtainable, the building was begun in 1780 on a site defined by a bend in the River

Wye laid out as ornamental gardens. The site required culverting of the Wye, the stifling of at least one of the springs and possibly the destruction of at least part of the Roman baths. Considerable infill on one side was needed and piling into wet ground on the other, as well as the destruction of the gardens. The landscaping of St Ann's Cliff in front of the Crescent in 1792 provided some compensation for the loss of the old gardens. The Crescent incorporated two hotels (the St. Ann's and The Crescent), lodging houses, public rooms for assembly, card playing, dining and dancing and an arcade of shops. Within thirty years of its completion, most of the lodging houses had been absorbed into the two hotels. The Crescent Hotel continued until 1935 when it became a clinic annexed to the Devonshire Royal Hospital. In the 1970's the former

hotel was acquired by the Derbyshire County Council for use as offices and the town's library until it was vacated in 1991. The St. Ann's Hotel continued in use as a private hotel until 1989. At the time of its closure the building was in a very poor state of repair. This was exacerbated by severe gales in 1990 causing considerable damage to the roof. There was a protracted campaign, initiated by the newly formed Buxton Group, to secure direct action by the then Department of National Heritage. This resulted in grants totalling £1.5m to enable repair works to be carried out during 1994-96. Many attempts were made to try and find a suitable developer for the building, finally resulting in the Trevor Osborne property group in association with Danubius Hotels coming up with a scheme for a hotel occupying the majority of

the Crescent, a working natural mineral water spa in the adjoining Natural Baths building, and development of the Pump Room to allow visitors to ‘take the waters’ once again



John Carr pictured with his designs for The Crescent.



Two views of the Ball Room

## Grade II\*



### **Devonshire Royal Hospital**

Built as stables for The Crescent, 1785-90, by John Carr for the 5<sup>th</sup> Duke of Devonshire, to accommodate 120 horses, at a cost of £16,470 3s 10d. Part of the stables were converted to a charity hospital in 1859 by the architect, Henry Curry (1820-1900). Between 1879 and 1882 the building was converted fully into a hospital. The plans of the architect, Robert Rippon Duke (1817-1909) included a slated domed roof of 138 feet inner diameter, described by 'The Engineer' magazine in 1882 as "...one of the largest dome-shaped roofs in this country or abroad..." The hospital was closed in 2000 and the building taken over by The University of Derby as the Buxton Campus.



### **St. Anne's Church, Bath Road**

The church appears to be the oldest building in Buxton. The date 1625 is carved over the porch but architectural evidence suggests that the major part of the building is of a far earlier date. In 1715 a vestry was added but by the end of the century the church had become ruinous. Services were transferred to the then new Assembly Rooms where they were held till 1811 when with the erection of St. John's Church St. Anne's was converted to a school. The building re-opened as a church in 1885 and soon became known as the High Church of Buxton due to the marked ritualism of the services.

## Grade II\*



### **The Old Hall Hotel**

A Derbyshire Square House. The New Hall as it was known then was built for the Earl and Countess of Shrewsbury, 1573, the Countess, being the redoubtable 'Bess of Hardwick' who built Hardwick Hall and Chatsworth. Early visitors included not only the elite from the Court of Queen Elizabeth I, but under different circumstances, the captive Mary Queen of Scots on several occasions between 1573 and 1584.



### **Twelve stone urns on plinths with linking walls and steps**

1753, carved by Robert Parsons of Bath for Lord Burlington at Londesborough Hall, Yorkshire, and brought to Buxton by the 6<sup>th</sup> Duke of Devonshire for the landscaping of the Slopes on 1818, by his architect Jeffrey Wyatt.

## Grade II\*



### **Nos 1 to 6, The Square**

A series of six town houses, 1803-1806, by John White and Son.



### **The Opera House**

1901-1903 by Frank Matcham, designed in the Italian Renaissance style. The theatre went into decline at the start of the war and from 1942 was used as a cinema with occasional performances from local amateur societies. Following major restoration it was reopened as a theatre in 1979.

